

VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

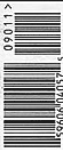


EXCALIBUR

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OVERPOWER
GAME CARD



DIRECT EDITION



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**DREAM
NAILS
TRILOGY**
SPECTACULAR
DOUBLE-SIZED
ISSUE!

YOUR NAME IS PETER WISDOM, AN OPERATIVE FOR BLACK AIR, THE PARANORMALITY SPECIALISTS FOR BRITISH INTELLIGENCE.

YOU AND THE X-MAN, KATHERINE PRYDE, HAVE BROKEN INTO A BLACK AIR-CONTROLLED BASE, DREAM NAILS, TO ESTABLISH THE CAUSE OF DEATH OF AN EX-PARTNER OF YOURS KILLED AT THAT BASE.

I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE THE REASON FOR YOUR EXECUTION ALL OUT IN THE OPEN. DON'T YOU?

STAN LEE
PRESENTS

BLOOD EAGLE

DREAM
NAILS
V

A DOUBLE-SIZED JUMPIN' JAM
BROUGHT TO YOU BY
WARREN ELLIS

KEN LASHLEY, DAVID WILLIAMS,
CARLOS PACHECO, LARRY STROMAN
pencillers

TOM WĘGRZYŃ, MIKE MILLER, CAM SMITH,
LARRY STROMAN
inkers

JOE ROSAS & ARIANE LENSCHOEK
colorists

RICHARD STARKINGS
& CORICRAFT
lettering

SUZANNE GAFFNEY
editor

BOB HARRAS
editor in chief

COMPUTER COLOR BY MALIBU



IT IS
PSYCHICALLY
ACTIVE, AND
REACTS TO
STRESS --

OH,
THE INFAMOUS
PETE WISDOM
NOTKNIFE.

NOW I
MUST EXPLAIN
QUICKLY -- THIS
ROOM HAS BEEN
FLOODED WITH A
VIRUS, MR.
WISDOM.

-- WHICH
IS WHY I'M
REMAINING CALM,
BECAUSE THE BACTERIUM
REACTS TO STRESS BY
DESTROYING FLESH.

YOU
ARE NOT
CALM. SO --
KEEP YOU'RE
CUT.



AND
THERE WE SEE
THE INHIBITOR
INJECTION WE GAVE
YOU EARLIER, FINALLY
STARTING TO WORK.
YOUR NUTRIT
TALENT IS SHUT
DOWN.

MINE,
OF COURSE,
ISN'T. I'M A
PSYCHIC, MR.
WISDOM. IN
BLACK AIR'S
PRY.

I'M HERE
TO FIELD-TEST
THE VIRUS ON
YOU.

WE
CALL IT
BLOOD EAGLE.
IT'S DERIVED FROM
THE ELIEN SPECIES
NAMED THE
UNCREATED.



I
INTEND TO
PICK THROUGH
YOUR MEMORIES,
MAKE YOU RELIVE THE
WORST ONES,
CREATE MASSIVE
STRESS --

-- AND
WATCH BLOOD
EAGLE SLASH
YOU TO
RIBBONS.



KITTY PRYDE,
YOU'VE LOST
IT. DREAM
NAILE IS GOING
WILD ALL AROUND
YOU -- GET OUT.

KITTY PRYDE, DON'T
YOU DARE LEAVE
PETE WISDOM BEHIND
IN THIS PLACE. THEY
KILLED HIS FRIEND.
YOU THINK THEY'LL
THINK TWICE
ABOUT KILLING HIM?

OOPS. BLACK AIR
BOYS -- LOOKS
LIKE THEY'RE SET
UP FOR GAS
ATTACK.

THESE ALARMS
MUST BE FOR
ME -- THEY'VE
FIGURED OUT
THAT I STILL
NEED TO
BREATHE --

-- EVEN WHEN
I'M PHASING
AND THEREFORE
INTANGIBLE.

LET'S SEE 'EM
GAS ME THROUGH
A WALL.

ALL QUIET IN
HERE. GOOD.

NO. PETE SAID THAT "VERY
QUIET" IS TOO GOOD. GOD,
HE BETTER BE OKAY, OR
I SWEAR I'LL SHOW THE GUY
WHO HURT HIM EVERYTHING
LOGAN TAUGHT ME...







LADY MORRA... I'M SORT OF ON LEAVE FROM X-FACTOR, AND, WELL, I THOUGHT I'D COME HOME...

Och, RAHNE, IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU -- AND A FINE DEGREE OF CONTROL YOU'RE SHOWING OVER YOUR SHAPE-CHANGING, TOO --

Hm? NO... NO, SURELY NOT...

WELL, IT'S CHILLY OUT -- LADY MORRA -- -- I HEARD ABOUT THE VIRUS --

RAHNE?

-- ARE YOU GOING THE DIET? ARE YE?

RAHNE, YE WEE BAMPOT. D'YE THINK I HAVEN'T BEATEN WICSE THAN THIS, DO YE?

O'MON AWAY NOW AND LET'S GET A COFFEE. HAVE YE MET ALL OF EXCALIBUR?

MORRA, SHE THINKS TO HERSELF, 'TIS BECOMING QUITE THE ACCOMPLISHED LAD IN YOUR OLD AGE.



THIS CAN'T BE TRUE.



WE ONLY DISCOVERED THE PHALANX RECENTLY—HOW COULD BLACK AIR HAVE KNOWN OF THEM BEFORE US?

EXTRATERRESTRIAL BIOLOGICAL ENTRY 7A
Phalanx using Star
Arms to capture
Recovered June 1981

Um...
WOULD THAT
MEAN THEY KNOW
ANYTHING ABOUT
DOUGLOCK?



EXTRATERRESTRIAL BIOLOGICAL ENTRY 7B
Prost Combat Drones
donated by the
HELLFIRE CLUB
order of Information
Exchange Library

TERRIFIC.
WHAT'S THE
HELLFIRE CLUB'S
STAKE IN ALL THIS?



OH, NO...
IS THIS WHAT
THEY'RE
GATHERING
UP THIS STUFF
FOR?

TO
KILL
US?

GENE-SPECIFIC ATTACKSWARMER
derived from recovered
Uncreated Technology
REACTS TO PRESENCE
OF X-GENE
BURNS OUT MURDER
BRINGER



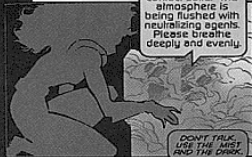
IF YOU
ARE HOMO
MUTATIS...
MUTANT...

...YES.

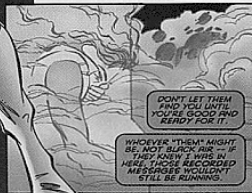


HSSSS

There has been
a breach in the
security of the
contact suite. The
atmosphere is
being flushed with
neutralizing agents.
Please breathe
deeply and evenly.



DON'T TALK.
USE THE MIST
AND THE DARK.



DON'T LET THEM
FIND YOU UNTIL
YOU'RE GOOD AND
READY FOR IT.

WHOEVER "THEM" MIGHT
BE, NOT BLACK AIR -- IF
THEY KNEW I WAS IN
HERE, THOSE RECORDED
MESSAGES WOULDN'T
STILL BE RUNNING.



DO NOT
HIDE. THERE IS
NO HIDING, NOT
ON YOUR
PLANET.

IT
HAS BEEN SAID
OF HUMANS THAT
THEY ARE NOT EVIL,
JUST STUPID AND
SCARED.





I CAN
SEE INSIDE
YOUR
MIND.

MEMORIES
SPILL OUT LIKE
A TUMBLING
STACK OF
POLAROID'S.

THIS
ONE YOU
WERE IN
AMERICA...



... SENT TO BREAK
INTO THE PREMISES
OF A NEW YORK
CULT...

TAKE
YOUR BEST
SHOT,
SLAPHEAD!

THE CULT
WORSHIPPED AN
ARTIFACT THAT
BLACK MEN WANTED,
DIDN'T THEY?

IT WAS
LATE AT NIGHT
WHEN YOU FORCED
THE DOOR OPEN,
EXPECTING THE
PLACE TO BE
DESERTED...



AND IT
WAS.

IN A
MANNER OF
SPEAKING.



THE CULT
HAD COMMITTED
SUICIDE, SOME DAYS
EARLIER. NO ONE HAD
YET DISCOVERED
THE CORPSES.

THE AIR
WAS THICK WITH
CORRUPTION. THE
POISON THEY'D USED
HAD SPILLED ON THE
FLOOR, FORMING A
VILE SCUM ON THE
BARE BOARDS...

THEY'D EVEN
POISONED THEIR
ANIMALS, HADN'T
THEY?

YOU
PARTICULARLY
REMEMBER THE
DEAD KITTENS
TRAPPED UNDER
THEIR MOTHER'S
CORPSE.

PULLING
YOURSELF
TOGETHER, YOU
LOOKED FOR THE
THING BLACK AIR
HAD SENT YOU
TO GET.

YOU
STEPPED
CAREFULLY
ACROSS THE
CARPET OF
ROTTING
BONES
FOR IT...

...AND
THERE IT WAS,
BERTING, MAKING
SUCKING NOISES.

THE
HEART OF AN
IMMORTAL,
WORSHIPPED BY
A GO-KHORY
CULT, AND YOU
HAD TO STEAL
IT.



MUIR ISLAND.

AMANDA SEFTON'S MORE THAN HALF IN LOVE WITH KURT WAGNER, AND SHE FEELS ROTTEN.

AMANDA'S THE TYPE TO COPE WITH THINGS ON HER OWN, AND KURT DEMANDS OPENNESS.

SHE WANTS TO COPE WITH THE FACT THAT SHE GAVE AN OCCULT WEAPON OF HORRIBLE POTENCY TO HER MOTHER, WHO WAS NOT WHAT SHE SEEMED --

-- SHE WANTS TO KEEP HER SECRETS SECRET, LIKE SHE PROMISED KURT --

AMANDA!
I DIDN'T KNOW
YOU WERE ON
MUIR. HOW ARE
YOU?

OKAY,
I GUESS.
I HEAR YOU'VE
HAD PROBLEMS
PSYCHOANALYZING
THAT MUTANT
CRIMINAL,
SPOOF--

WELL, HE DID
BREAK DOWN IN
TEARS EARLIER, BUT
THAT'S REALLY
A GOOD
SIGN.

USING THAT
MUTANT MOOD-
ALTERING ABILITY
OF HIS WISDOM WAY
OF CONTROLLING A
WORLD THAT HURT
HIM GREATLY
PARTICULARLY IN
CHILDHOOD.



YOU KNOW
WHAT I'M WORRIED
ABOUT, DON'T YOU,
RORY?

WE BOTH
GLIMPSED THAT
POSSIBLE FUTURE OF
YOURS WHEN RACHEL PULLED
BRAIN OUT OF THE
TIMESTREAM...



WHERE I
BECOME ANAB.
TORTURES OF
MUTANTS.

I THINK
ABOUT IT EVERY
DAY. IT'S WHAT KEEPS
ME IN CONTROL.
ANABRA.



I CAN'T
MAKE A MOVE WITHOUT
WONDERING IF ITS
RAMIFICATIONS WILL TURN
ME. MAKE ME HATE
MUTANTS...

...AND
THE DAY I STOP
DOING THAT, I STOP
CARING, AND
THEN I AM
ANAB.

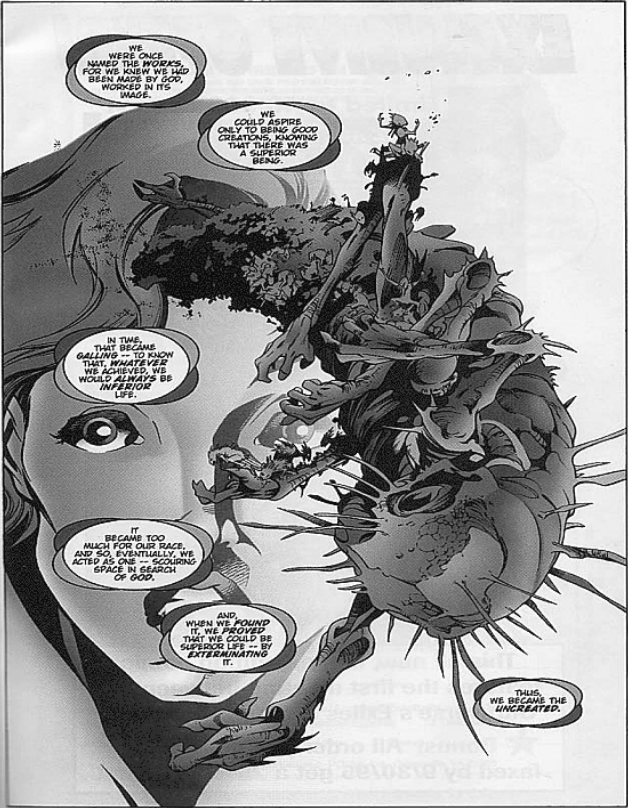
BUT I
STILL DO CARE.
ANABRA.

THANK
YOU FOR
CARING,
TOO.

I'LL WATCH
MY STEP WITH
SPOOR.







WE
WERE ONCE
NAMED THE WORKS,
FOR WE KNEW WE HAD
BEEN MADE BY GOD,
WORKED IN ITS
IMAGE.

WE
COULD ASPIRE
ONLY TO BEING GOOD
CREATIONS, KNOWING
THAT THERE WAS
A SUPERIOR
BEING.

IN TIME,
THAT BECAME
GALLING -- TO KNOW
THAT, WHATEVER
WE ACHIEVED, WE
WOULD ALWAYS BE
INFERIOR
LIFE.

IT
BECAME TOO
MUCH FOR OUR RACE,
AND SO, EVENTUALLY, WE
ACTED AS ONE -- SCOURING
SPACE IN SEARCH
OF GOD.

AND,
WHEN WE FOUND
IT, WE PROVED
THAT WE COULD BE
SUPERIOR LIFE -- BY
EXTERMINATING
IT.

THUS,
WE BECAME THE
UNCREATED.



SINCE THEN, WE
HAVE TRAVELED,
EXPECTING SOME
ACKNOWLEDGMENT
OF THE THING WE
HAVE DONE.

INSTEAD, WE FIND
CREATURES STILL
WORSHIPPING.



THEY
DENY THE DEATH
OF GOD. THEY DO NOT
PROGRESS. THEY
ARE INFERIOR
LIFE.

Dangerously
inferior.



AND SO,
UNLESS THEY
CHOOSE TO
REGRET THEIR
RELIGION AND
GROW --

-- THEY
MUST, FOR THE
GOOD OF ALL, BE
REMOVED.



Um...
SOMEHOW, I
DON'T THINK
MY GOD WAS
YOUR GOD.

AND
NOT WANTING
TO BE RUDE, BUT
SHOULDN'T YOU
BE LOCKED UP
SOMEWHERE?



GOD IS
GOD.

WE'D
FOUND A WAY
TO BURN OUT OUR
LOCKS SOME TIME
AGO, AND TOOK
ADVANTAGE OF THE
LAPSE IN SECURITY
TO EXECUTE
IT.

COME
HERE.



NOT LONG
NOW, MISTER
WISDOM, NOT LONG
NOW. THE INTERNAL
BLEEDING WILL
START SOON.

YOUR LUNGS
WILL BEGIN TO FILL
WITH BLOOD, AND
EVENTUALLY, I MARGINE,
YOU WILL DROWN
IN IT...

KISS...
MY...
ENTIRE...

NOW,
THAT'S
RUDE.

LET'S
FIND US
ANOTHER LITTLE
MEMORY... PERHAPS
ANOTHER TOKEN OF
YOUR TIME WITH
BLACK RIK.

AH! THE PHRASE
COLD GREY
APPEARS TO HOLD
A SPECIAL PRIZE
FOR YOU.

NO,
PLEASE...

A
FORTRESS
ON BRITISH-
OWNED SOIL IN
THE ANTARCTIC,
OVERTAKEN BY
TERRORISTS.

OH, I
SEE... THEY
WERE ARMED
WITH UNUSUAL
TECHNOLOGY,
WHICH IS WHY
BLACK RIK
WERE SENT
IN.



YOU WERE
INSERTED INTO
THE AREA VIA
HELICOPTER,
ENTIRELY
ALONE...

GOOD
GRIEF. YOU
WERE EXPECTED
TO DISABLE
THEM ALL
YOURSELF.

I CAN SEE
IT IN YOUR MIND
NOW. SO CLEARLY,
MORE VIVID THAN
BEFORE...

THE
TERRORISTS'
SPOTTER CHOPPER
WAS BETWEEN
YOU AND THE
FORTRESS
ENTRANCE.



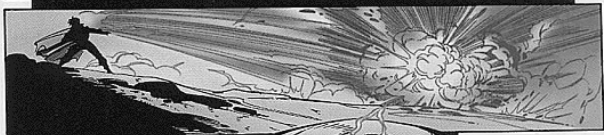
YOU
RECOGNIZED
THE PILOT, SITTING
IN THE CHOPPER
FROM YOUR
BRIEFING --

-- A FAMILY
MAN, INVOLVED
WITH THE GROUP
SIMPLY BECAUSE
HE THOUGHT IT
WAS RIGHT --



-- HOLD
ON --

-- NO, YOU
COULDN'T
HAVE --



THAT'S
RIGHT...
DROVE A BUNCH
OF MY HOTKNIVES
RIGHT INTO
IT'S KILL
FRANK...

KEEP
LOOKIN'...



OH,
GOD,
YOU WENT
INSIDE.

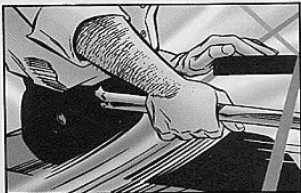
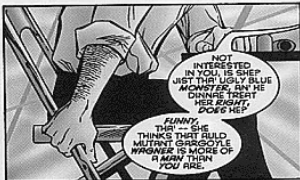
OH,
GOD.

WHAT...
WHAT'RE YOU
DOING TO
THEM?



I'M
KILLING
THEM ALL.
SHAME.







I SAVED
THIS MEMORY
ESPECIALLY
FOR YOU,
SHRINE.

KEEP
LOOKING
AROUND, SHRINE,
AND YOU'LL SEE SOME
ENTRANCING LAYING
IN THE SNOW...
REMEMBER THEM
STEERING...



SUCH...
SUCH GRIMACE.
SUCH CALM IN
YOUR MIND...

YOU'RE
A MONSTER.



OH.

OH,
NO...



A
LITTLE
STRESSED,
ARE WE?

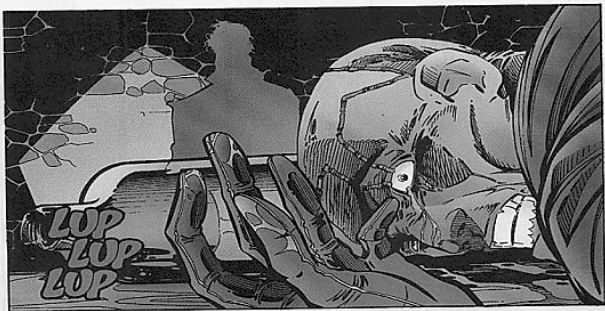
YOU
MISERABLE
LITTLE BUTTON-
PUSHER -- YOU'VE
NEVER HAD TO DEAL
WITH AN HONEST
EMOTION IN
YOUR LIFE,
HAVE YOU?



I
SPECIFICALLY
DUG THIS
MEMORY OUT
OF MY MIND,
REARRANGED IT
IN MY HEAD,
PUSHED IT TO
THE FRONT SO
YOU HAD TO
FIND IT.







IF YOU
SPEND YOUR
ENTIRE LIFE JUST
WATCHING --

-- YOU'LL
NEVER DEVELOP
THE STUFF TO
LIVE IT.



AND
YOUR
WINE WAS
HORRIBLE.



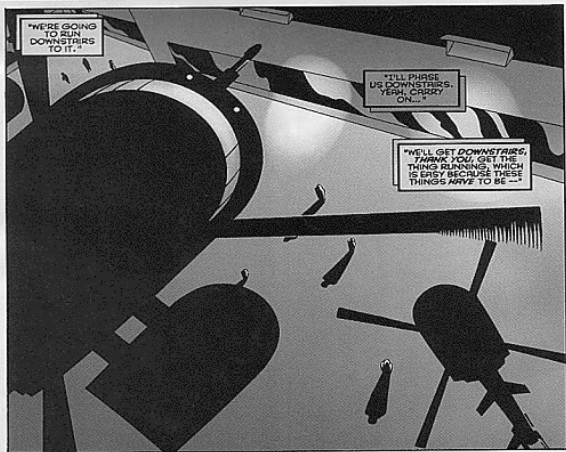
YOUR
INHIBITOR
JES WASN'T
TOO CLEVER,
EITHER.

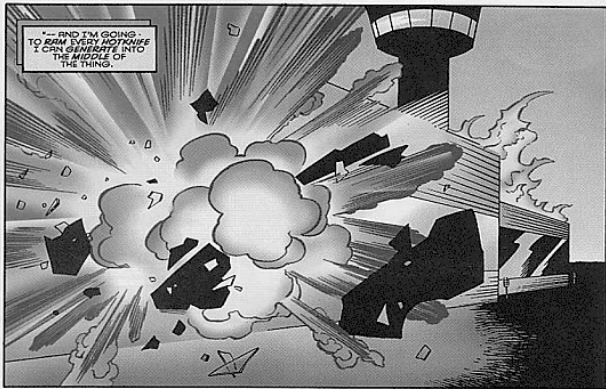
GUESS
YOU WERE
EXPECTING ME
TO BE DEAD
BEFORE IT
WORE OFF.











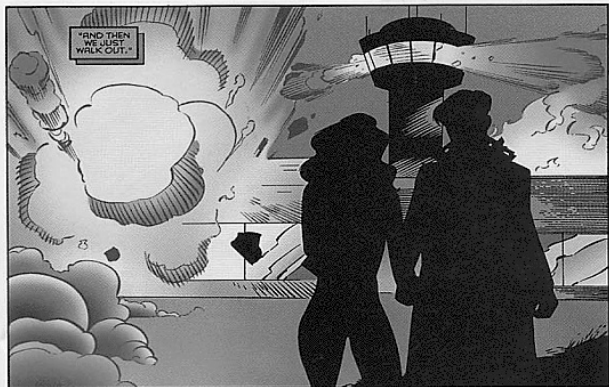
"-- AND I'M GOING
TO RAM EVERY HOTKNIFE
I CAN GENERATE INTO
THE MIDDLE OF
THE THING."



"LET'S SEE WHAT
THEY CAN DERIVE
FROM A PILE OF
BLOODY
ALIEN SCOT."*



"THAT'LL DESTROY
THE STUFF THEY
HAVE ON SITE, TOO.
AND IT'LL SCATTER
THE CHOPPERS."*





"A MUTANT BONNIE
AND CLYDE? WHO'D
BUY THAT?"

"OK, COME ON --
THE DYNAMIC DUO,
PRYDE AND WISDOM.
HOW'S THAT? LIKE
STARKY AND HUTCH,
BUTCH AND
SUNDANCE."

"REN AND
STIMPY."

"YOU COULD MAYBE
JOIN EXCALIBUR FULL
TIME, YOU KNOW..."

"OH, RIGHT. THAT
SCOTTISH HARRIDON
METAGGERT WANTS
MY GUTS FOR GARTERS.
YOU CAN SEE IT IN HER
LITTLE SCOTTISH
EYES..."

"WELL, I THINK YOU
COULD FIND AN
ADVOCATE FOR
YOUR STAYING
WITH THE TEAM."

"LET'S SIT DOWN
IN THE BACK --
I THINK WE SHOULD
TALK ABOUT THIS
SOME MORE."

AUTOPLOT
ENGAGED AT
SLOW CRUISE
SPEED



BENEATH THEM,
MACHINES SPIN
AND CHATTER
IN HISPICTED
MODERN BABY
TALK.

HARSH IDEAS
CLATTER DOWN
PHONE LINES.

A BAD DREAM
HAS BEEN NAILED
TO THE WALL
TONIGHT, AND
THE PEOPLE WHO
DREAMT IT ARE
IN SILENT ANGRY
RETRAIT.

BUT ITS BLOOD
IS NOT YET DRY.

AND DREAMS
CAN RECUR.

END

SWORDSSTROKES

They say time flies when you're having fun--and boy are they right--whoever **THEY** are?!

This month marks the twentieth anniversary of the *X-Men*. We can hardly believe it! We've enjoyed their exploits from days as children of the atom, to their adventures as adults in the Age of Apocalypse.

Speaking of which, we asked you to share your thoughts on a world without Xavier--and you came through with flying colors, so without further ado--here's what you, the **REAL** editors, thought!

Dear Suzanne,

Powerful stuff, that's the way to describe the past four issues of the *X-CALIBRE* series that have portrayed the developments in a world without Charles Xavier.

Powerful, for not only has writer Warren Ellis proved that he really is a superb writer, capable of conveying upon the readers a sense of belonging, or rather familiarity, with the book's characters in a fashion unheard of, but also because Ken Lashley turns out to be a spectacular artist. With his dynamic and fresh work, Ken has brought back the visual spirit of the book.

As far as the fourth issue of this series within a series is concerned, I feel this also was the issue that had the most dramatic impact. The final battle

between Kurt's little group and the Shadow King was portrayed masterfully.

The scene where poor Doug Ramsey dies was especially touching and powerful. It's ironic to see that Doug was killed on this alternate world as well, trying to save somebody he cares about. I guess it just goes to show that no matter how different alternate universes or planes of reality can be, there are still some things that are the same throughout the multitude of realities.

Now, in retrospect, the saga "After Xavier" has ignited a renewed interest in this very series, and I'm looking forward to seeing how the creative team will continue to work miracles when *EXCALIBUR* continues next month. Keep it up, guys. You're doing a splendid job.

Olav Beemer
The Netherlands
Europe

Wow! Thanks, Olav. And don't worry, we've got things up our sleeves that'd make En Sabah Nur blush.

Dear X-Calibre,

I have really enjoyed the way Nightcrawler and Mystique have been "re-created" in *X-CALIBRE*. I have, for a long time, wanted to like Mystique, but that was difficult in light of her being such an abusive and deadbeat parent in the regular *X-books*. She's a much better mother in this series, and that makes her a much more attractive and sympathetic character. I like the way Kurt calls her "Mom." That's just adorable.

And Kurt's not trying to be Mr. Goody-Two-Shoes-Conventional anymore; I had been getting really annoyed with that. He's much more believable, interesting and fun as a barbarian. Please don't kill off these two just because their series is only four issues.

Please keep them alive and together. Thank you!

Amy Smith
(Address withheld by request)

As you already know if you've been faithfully picking up your *X-FACTOR* issues, Mystique is back to working with that group now, but that doesn't mean there won't be opportunity aplenty for the two of them to shake things up—together, hopefully!

To the creative team of *EXCALIBUR*:

I'm not so much an *EXCALIBUR* fan as I am a Nightcrawler fan. I think he is a very interesting character, and a bit underrated. Nightcrawler deserves the right to the name mutant more than anyone. I thought that the *X-CALIBRE* series was great because it centered on Kurt.

I would like to propose that Kurt become more like his "After Xavier" counterpart. The swords were a nice complement, and they were also believable.

Keep him as the team leader. He is a good crowning centerpiece. Also, I would like to propose some changes for the team. Make Colossus part of the team, and put him and Kitty together. It makes sense



C/O MARVEL
COMICS GROUP
387 PARK
AVENUE SOUTH
NY, NY 10016



If you don't
want your
full name
and address
printed,
be sure to
tell us!

**SUZANNE
GAFFNEY
EDITOR**

**BOB
MARSH
CHIEF**

DESIGN BY CHANCEWITT

that in times of trouble a person turns to the one he loves.

Please consider these suggestions. As for villains, the Acolytes will surely want revenge against Colossus. Bring back the Hellfire Club but with some new members added to their roster. Have them try to make Kitty a member. Think about this.

Jim Smith
(Address withheld by request)

As you saw with this issue, Kitty's found out about a connection between the Hellfire Club and Black Air that we know her curious mind will just *have* to dig into.

Oh, and as far as Colossus goes...we're not going to give anything away, but we advise you to go out and reserve your copy of EXCALIBUR #91—*now!*

Dear X-Calibre guys,

I just read X-CALIBRE #1-3, and I have to say "excellent!" In fact, all the Age of Apocalypse storylines are excellent. I like what you guys did with Nightcrawler's costume.

I'm surprised by what Cain Marko (Juggernaut) became. I mean, there's a guy who pounded you when you said the word Xavier—and now he's become an unstoppable man of peace. It really made me shed a tear for him when he died in issue #3, though. He became very distressed when he had to decide between defending himself or remaining non-violent, and due to the strain, his brain vessel broke.

All in all, it was a very good storyline and I liked it. Keep up the good work.

Ian Hines
5009 Grandy
Detroit, MI 48211

We really felt for the big guy, too, Ian.

Juggernaut's path brings up an interesting point about the influence of Xavier. It's important to notice that for some, the death of Xavier sent them on a righteous path they never found while Xavier was alive.

It also goes to show ya' that a man of strong convictions is *always* a man of strong convictions.

Dear Calibre Ones,
X-CALIBRE is awesome! Everything about it, right down to the cover's logo—which is better than the one for the regular series! Is this a limited series? I hope not.

I mean, I want Apocalypse to be beaten, but I like all of the characters better in this reality than I did in the normal reality!

The truth is, I never bought a single issue of the regular series but I just had to buy issue #3 of this new, improved X-CALIBRE! Now I'm looking for back issues.

Nightcrawler looks fabulous and seems to be a mutant swashbuckler! Did I mention the artwork? It's great.

Mystique is more cool now than she's ever been! The chemistry between her and her son Kurt is lots of fun! I also liked seeing Cain Marko and Damask.

Is Dead Man Wade supposed to be anything like Deadpool? He's a good villain, either way.

If you keep up this great storytelling and artwork you may start putting a damper on another comic book company's "image."

Now this is the Marvel way!

Rodney Woolard
(Address withheld by request)

We're blushing, Rodney! Glad you liked X-CALIBRE so much!

As you know by now, we have returned to our regularly scheduled EXCALIBUR (with the new improved logo—hope you like it!), but as you probably also know, in returning we brought a few "unexpected guests" back with us. Dark Beast, Sugarman, Holocaust, and Nate Grey have certainly been making themselves quite at home—perhaps a little *too* much at home...

Oh—yep—that sure was our own Wade Wilson, a.k.a. Deadpool. Guess things got a little out of hand with their reality's version of the Weapon X program!

Dear X-CALIBRE x-factors:

Re: X-CALIBRE #3
Hey! I just finished reading issue #3 of X-CALIBRE and felt I had to comment. This is the first time I have written to a comic book, despite the fact that I have been collecting X

titles for more than ten years.

In this issue, it was nice to see a woman, Damask, say "Did you see the way his muscles moved under that fur? Like velvet." Great stuff!

I also enjoyed when Kurt teleported Dead Man Wade's head off. I always thought Kurt's mutant power should be exploited more. With him 'porting parts of bodies off, along with what can be found in between "Bamfs" (see the Soulsword Trilogy, EXCALIBUR #83-85), I think his power would tend to give him more of an edge, rather than turn him into a swashbuckling, sword-wielding kinda guy.

Until Jean Grey's next death (and of course, rebirth...groan!), make mine Marvel!

Luke Hertlein
930A King Street West
Toronto, Ontario
Canada

Kurt is a multi-faceted person, capable, like all of us, of great kindness, great courage and, whether he likes it or not, great evil. It's his control over that side of him that we *usually* see.

We also got a kick out of Damask's "expressiveness," Luke.

Dear Suzanne,

Well, you asked for it, you've got it. Here are all the opinions and requests that I could muster concerning the whole X-CALIBRE storyline (and a few other tidbits about #88 along the way).

Kurt Darkholme is awesome. I could understand why his attitude is so different than the one we've come to know and love. Having to survive in a world ruled by Apocalypse... something had to give. Just thank goodness, it wasn't his morale. Loved his cool duds and nifty tattoo (?) by the way.

Mystique was another cool character. And yes, her costume was great. In short, the whole story was action-packed and thrill-a-minute fun, but I'm glad the visit was temporary. 'No place is like home' they say, and boy, were they ever right. There is one request though. Switchback had a lot of potential to be a really cool character. Will we see her now that the AOA is finally over, or was she written off never to be used again?

Okay, skipping ahead a little, here is what I think of the current state of EXCALIBUR. EXCALIBUR #88 was great! I like the introduction of Black Air and the cigarette smokin' Pete Wisdom (have him join the team by the way, please?). I sense a relationship in the wings with him and Kitty. Am I right?

Now last, but definitely not least, here are some questions I would like to ask you:

In August, EXCALIBUR #90 will be the prequel of sorts to STARJAMMERS #1. Does that mean Cerise will rejoin the team after the whole Shi'ar/Kree/Uncreated storyline is over with? Please let her because her character had a lot of untapped potential.

In closing, I just want to thank you for hearing me out. I really do like the direction you're taking with EXCALIBUR. Warren Ellis is the perfect pick for writer (since I love well thought-up stories and I myself am trying to get a novel published (500 pages). I realize how difficult it is to come up with something new and unheard of.

Ken Lashley is the definitive artist for this book. He gets better and better with each issue he illustrates. And to the rest of Excalibur crew including Tom Wegrzyn and Joe Rosas, you are turning out one of the finest looking comics on the shelves today.

Also, tell Mr. Stroman he can guest-pencil this book *anytime*.

Gavin Hunter
49 Jameswood Avenue
Savannah, GA 31406

Okay, Gavin, I'll pass on your kudos to the gang!

And about Cerise, while we're not saying she'll be coming back to EXCALIBUR, keep your eyes peeled in STARJAMMERS and you'll see the honorable warrior herself!

Dear Excalibur,

I am sixteen years old and I was totally blown away by the coolness of your stories, the different and unique dispositions of your characters, and the incredible colors and beauty of your art back in the Soul Sword Trilogy. Since then, a very good friend of mine has given me a box full of old EXCALIBUR issues and right

away I noticed something in them that does not exist in your comic books anymore; namely, humor. I have always liked comic books that had a mix of action and comedy. I think that it would be well worth the effort to bring a sense of fun back to EXCALIBUR. I do not like comic books with a dark, depressing atmosphere.

Another thing that I want to mention is that I have developed a crush on Shadowcat and I detest the way that you have been portraying her lately. Looking back at the earlier issues of EXCALIBUR, I have seen her portrayed as a brave yet light-hearted teenage heroine who stood up for what she believed in and often had a good time (or at least hilariously bad time) doing it. Now, she is portrayed as an evil-tempered, depressed, mentally screwed-up anti-hero who spends all her time crying over lost friends or threatening and glaring at old friends and new characters alike, as if she hates everyone—including herself. Wasn't the last time someone close to Kitty died a long time ago? I think it's time that she should get over her losses and move on with her life. I would be ever so thankful if you would polish this tarnished gem of a character and make her wild, happy, and humorous once again. After saving the world at least once and always standing up for what she believes in, I think that Kitty Pryde deserves a new lease on life.

Brian C. Williams
Address withheld by request

And there's nothing like a new romance to give one that new-lease-on-life feeling, is there, Brian? Stick around—Kitty's been through a rough time, but there are brighter days ahead for her...unless Colossus lops off Pete Wisdom's head, or Wisdom gets a hot knife through Colossus's organic steel, or she gets caught in the middle of them, or...never mind!

And you're right, Brian, EXCALIBUR did have more humor in the earlier issues. We have not forgotten that and are working to bring a little more light into the lives of our merry mutants from Muir.

Dear Sword Strokes,

First, I'd love to congratulate you

on having the best consistent artwork in all the X-comics.

Secondly, I just wanted to let you know that I noticed the new logo and I like it the best of EXCALIBUR.

Thirdly, I have a few questions to ask.

1. Someone mentioned Karma joining the team in a previous Sword Strokes, and you said it was in the works. Is this still true? 2. Love the development of Kitty. I'm sure she'll develop even more as Colossus joins. 3. Is Wolfsbane coming to Muir? I think that would be really cool.

Doug Carle
3605 Indigo Pond Drive
Palm Harbor, FL 34685

Here we go, Doug. By numbers, 1) Yep, it's still in the works. 2) We do, too. Our little Shadowcat is growing up... 3) She's here!! It'll be interesting to see how she fits in.

Dear Sword Strokes,

Hi, y'all! I just wanted you to know that EXCALIBUR is the single greatest comic of all time. Kurt is handsome, and Brian's not a bungling geekoid anymore! (Thank Heaven!) Meggan's power to shapeshift is way awesome. Doug's cute, what with his struggling to be more human-like.

As for Kitty what is there to say? I mean, walking on air and going through stuff is just too wild!

By the way, Ch'od, my iguana says "hi!"

Sally Ramsey
638 Swan Pond Circle Road
Harriman, TN 37748

Thanks, Sally! Hope you and your iguana enjoy his namesake's first limited series—STARJAMMERS, out this August!

AND SPEAKING OF THE STARJAMMERS—

DON'T MISS THE FIREWORKS
WHEN THE SHI'AR TAKE ON
THE UNCREATED IN THE
FIRST ISSUE OF THE STAR-
JAMMERS LIMITED SERIES!!